Pak failure to stop terrorism

†1986. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President of Pakistan has categorically stated during the visit to his country by the leaders from abroad and during his own visit to foreign countries, that he cannot stop terrorism going on in Jammu and Kashmir, completely;

(b) if so, whether it would adversely affect the peace talk to be held between the two countries; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Contrary to facts, the President of Pakistan, General Musharraf, has from time to time claimed *inter alia* that nothing was happening across the Line of Control, Pakistan had done all it could, or suggested that Pakistani State or agencies were not behind the terrorists acting against India.

(b) and (c) President Musharraf's comments are clearly unhelpful in the context of Prime Minister's initiative to establish trust and confidence in India-Pakistan relations.

Government have made it clear that creation of conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue necessarily required an end to cross border terrorism and dismantling of the infrastructure of support to terrorism in Pakistan.

Vacant posts in Indian Embassies

1987. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts are lying vacant in different Indian embassies in various countries;

(b) if so, the vacancy position, post-wise and country-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up these posts?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Out of 2038 posts in 162 Indian Missions/Posts abroad, 36 posts are lying vacant in the following 17 Missions/Posts.

Sl. No.	Name of Mission/Post
1.	Embassy of India, Beijing
2.	High Commission of India, Harare
3.	High Commission of India, Islamabad
4.	Embassy of India, Jakarta
5.	Consulate General of India, Jeddah
6.	High Commission of India, London
7.	Embassy of India, Madrid
8.	Embassy of India, Moscow
9.	High Commission of India, Nairobi
10.	High Commission of India, Port Louis
11.	Embassy of India, Sana'a
12.	Consulate General of India, St. Petersburg
13.	Embassy of India, Tel Aviv
14.	Embassy of India, Tripoli
15.	High Commission of India, Valetta
16.	Embassy of India, Washington
17.	Embassy of India, Yangon

(c) These posts are being filled as per prescribed administrative procedures and on the basis of functional requirements of the Missions concerned keeping in mind the number of posts available.

Break-through due to step by step approach with Pakistan

1988. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether step by step approach of India with Pakistan has been on for quite some time;